



February 27, 2012 GAE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

ROVAC TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL No. 213

Melissa Russell, Exec. VP ROVAC

AAC INTERNET ACCESS FOR REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Good morning, Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and members of the GAE Committee. My name is Melissa Russell, and I'm a Registrar of Voters in Bethlehem, as well as the Executive Vice President of ROVAC. I'm speaking today in strong support of SB 213.

As a resident of a Litchfield County, which is largely made up of small towns with part time Registrars with tiny budgets, I appreciate the need for legislation to require municipalities to provide internet access to their Registrars. Too often, as I speak with members of my county, and other small town Registrars around the state, I hear that they can't access the SOTS website from their office, nor can they look up obituaries, redistricting maps, or the latest statutes. When I ask why they don't have the internet in their office, the answer is always the same: their town won't pay for it.

This legislation will classify internet access as a basic tool of Registrars of Voters' jobs, along with the office space, supplies and equipment, and storage of official records that is already required in 9-5a.

On behalf of ROVAC, I urge you to pass this bill, thereby giving one of the most basic tools of the 21st century to all Registrars.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.